

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL GENOA

TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

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AMCONSUL MILAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENOA 0061

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: FAITH IN US COMMITMENT TO ITALY DECLINING LOCALLY

1. ONE EMERGING INTERPRETATION OF RECENT NEWS MEDIA ALLEGATIONS ABOUT US PAYMENTS TO ITALIAN POLITICAL PARTIES AND POLITICIANS CASTS DOUBT ON US COMMITMENT TO ITALY. GENOA EX-MAYOR AND DC LEADER PIOMBINO

RETURNED TO GENOA JAN. 19 FROM ROME, WHERE HE HAD PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH NATIONAL DC LEADERS. PIOMBINO TOLD SECRETARY-GENERAL OF GENOA ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIALISTS THAT ROME DC LEADERS ARE CONVINCED THAT QUOTE AMERICA WOULD LIKE TO GET OUT OF ITALY UNQUOTE. NEWS LEAKS ARE VIEWED AS PRELUDE TO SEVERING OF TRADITIONAL US TIES TO ITALIAN POLITICAL FORMATIONS.

2. GIVEN ITALIAN TENDENCY TO INTERPRET EVENTS IN OBSCURE AND COMPLICATED WAYS, THE ABOVE IS NOT SURPRISING. UNFORTUNATELY, IF DC LEADERS BELIEVE

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THAT THE US IS SEEKING TO DETACH ITSELF FROM ITALY, THEY WILL BE MORE LIKELY TO SEEK ACCOMODATION WITH THE PCI. HERE IN GENOA, EX-MAYOR PIOMBINO AND OTHER TAVIANEI HAVE BEEN MOVING TOWARD ADVOCACY OF SOME SORT

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OF ASSOCIATION OF THE PCI WITH THE GOVERNING MAJORITY. NOW, THIS

TENDENCY WILL BE REINFORCED.

3. CONSOFFS WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO EXPRESS US SUPPORT FOR ITALY AND

ITALY'S CONTINUED DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT. WE ARE GENERATING MAXIMUM
PUBLICITY FOR UPCOMING PORT EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION AS A MEANS OF
CALLING

LOCAL ATTENTION TO US INTEREST IN CONTINUED ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH
ITALY. BRUNO

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NNN

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